



Highlights – November 4th World Café - Early Child Development Symposium.

Washington was recognized throughout the morning plenary sessions for its leadership in implementing practices and programs aligned with current understanding of neurobiology and ACE's research. We are leading the nation and others are watching for breakthrough innovations from policy to practice. The alignment of legislators, policy makers, practitioners, educators, public health leaders, and philanthropic organizations will help Washington accelerate our efforts, despite budget cuts. 80,000 kids are being born into our state this year and reducing ACEs is a core strategy that unites across sectors, silos and communities.

The World Cafe session allowed us to discover key innovations underway in the state and to map those innovations at multiple levels (graphic maps, table tops, and key insights). We shared stories of our work and learning and discovered how we are moving these efforts forward at the level of policy AND practice across the state. During the later rounds of World Café we looked for strategic opportunities to move our efforts boldly forward and named what we each can do to help accelerate this movement.

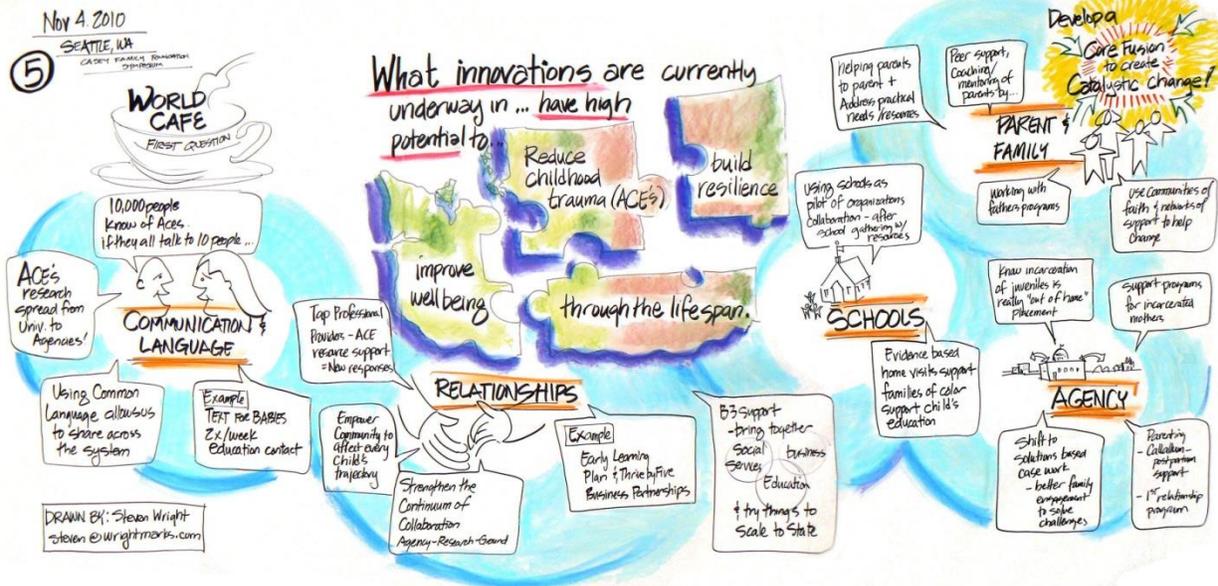
The World Café <http://theworldcafe.com> is a **conversational meeting process**. The World Café is an innovative yet simple methodology for hosting conversations about questions that matter. People sit at tables of 4-5 and map their discoveries on table tops. These conversations link and build on each other as people move between groups, cross-pollinate ideas, and discover new insights into the questions or issues that are most important in their life, work, or community. As a process, the World Café can evoke and make visible the collective wisdom of any group and increase people's capacity for effective action.

Our high level summary includes the visual record from each round of café and the associated themes brought forward from the tables. *We are in the process of completing a deeper analysis of the work and recommendations from the day by looking through the table maps and written recommendations.*

Mapping Compelling Innovations in our State:

People had the opportunity to be part of two table teams exploring this theme. We used our table paper to map out the key innovations as we explored the following question. In the full plenary we then shared some of the key innovations we discovered at our tables.

Questions 1 and 2: What innovations are underway in our States that have high potential to reduce childhood trauma (ACE's), build resilience and improve wellbeing through the lifespan?



Themes from Tables (Report out):

- Brain Research understanding across our state, over 10,000 people trained. Brain research provides common language so we are all on the same plan that keeps families at the center
- Using local schools to pilot ways to work as systems, co-location of resources and resources available to parents after school hours
- All about relationships and partnerships at all levels of system.
- Key work being done with incarcerated parents and some alternatives for parents in the prisons including preparing them to be re-united with children with stronger parenting skills.
- Mariam Brichum's Post Partum Therapy in Clellum County
- Promoting the various Programs- Working with fathers
- Text for Babies- parents can call in and hear what do to and get parenting advice.
- Communication- How we spread the word about ACEs was inexpensive and effective.
- Shift to Solution Based Casework help them to better engage with families
- Evidence based home visiting programs are really effective way to work with families, encourage them to support families early and on-going
- All innovations need to build on parent- child interaction, need to empower the community, parent interaction with peer networks. This is the common strength of many of the innovative efforts.
- Shared understanding that parent can't be responsive and nurturing if they are worried about poverty issues. Recognize the need to help them learn how to parents and help provide support around employment, housing, etc...
- Strengthening families through community cafes, parents meet and learn from each other
- At the professional level- professional development around strength based work
- Early Head Start, P-3 Initiatives, White Center – all about relationships and bringing people together and trying new things
- 3 core themes: 1) Partnership with parents 2) Has to be about all parents, not certain parents 3) To develop core fusion to create catalytic change, need to talk to people have different groups (ex employers, hair salons, all the places people go etc..)

Moving our Innovations Boldly Forward:

Built on our shared discoveries and understanding we looked for the key opportunities to move these innovations forward in the state AND to determine what this group of Policy Makers, Practitioners, Scientists, and Philanthropists can do this year to move it forward in our current environment.

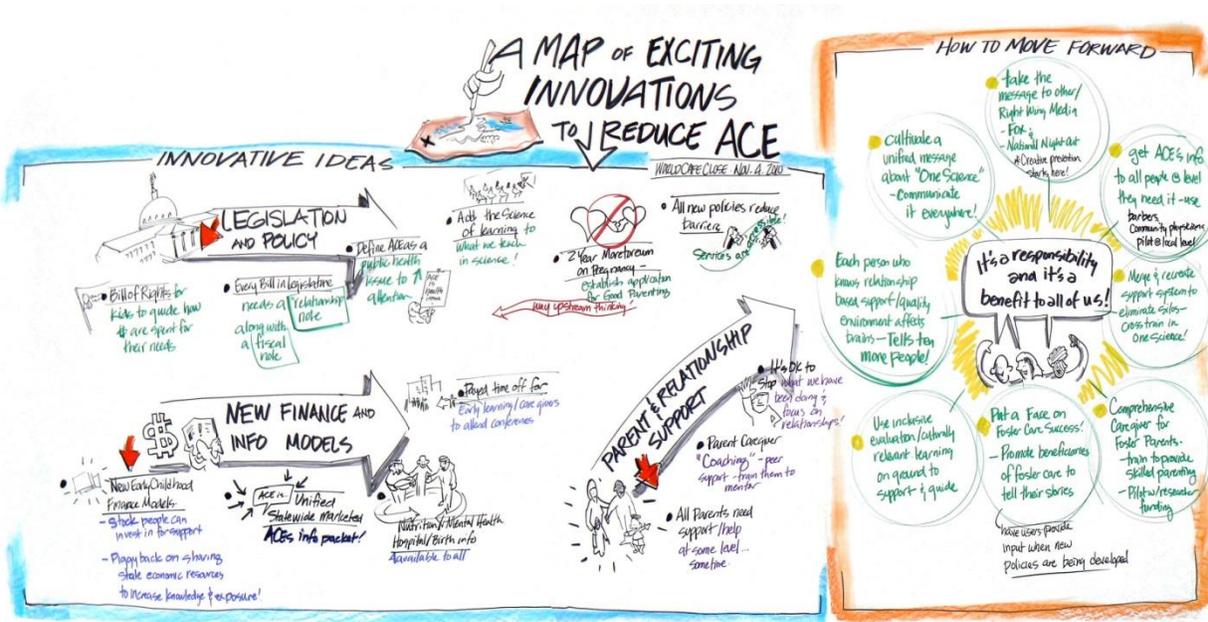
Our key questions were as follows, both are represented on the visual map.

Questions 3: What significant, innovative and practical changes could be made to early childhood policy/practice in Washington? For example, share your ideas about changes that are:

- Grounded in scientific principles that can be applied across agencies and sectors;
- Positioned to mobilize both public and private-sector resources; and
- Designed to be simple and scalable

We reported out on the small ways and big ways that we can get traction on the issues that matter most.

Question 4: What can we do to help each other to make this all possible? (Looking for ideas for new ways to work together, creative ideas around funding, how we share our learning, policy shifts we can move forward, etc).



Themes from Tables Question 3 (Report out):

- Emphasis on early intervention and creating policy to reduce barriers to eligibility process; importance of integration of health and early learning;
- professional development for people that work in early childhood to ensure they understand ACEs and current neurobiology;

- Bill of rights for kids that would set standards for how we would spend our money based on kid's hierarchy of needs
- Need more emphasis on caregiver education (coaching); create a pathway for parents to be mentors for other parents;
- Every Bill to every committee regardless of topic should have relationship note
- ACEs Needs to be defined as a public health issues so they are more visible
- People need to be taught about early learning, needs to be ingrained from youth
- New early childhood finance model, new ways to invest in this change
- Unified branding for early youth education
- Broader sharing of knowledge with wide constituency to get the key messages out to parents: Example- Child Support Department could send out this information to parents
- Need to think upstream in how we do our work; parent support should be for everybody and not just those that "need it."

Setup for Question 4:

Representative Ruth Kagi came forward for some, "Monday morning quarterbacking." She spoke of the many, many bold ways she and her legislative partners are working to move this issue forward. This includes creative financing such as locking in funding for current foster care levels and as we drop foster care roles investing that \$\$ in upstream solutions to reduce ACEs. She spoke of new governance models which encourage public and private partnership. She spoke of the partnerships across education, public health, early learning to together drive this agenda. She spoke of the level of shared understanding throughout the legislature and philanthropic community that make some of the bold agendas we are pursuing possible. Ruth challenged us through her example to continue to move boldly forward at all levels even amidst the cuts we're experiencing due to the vote this week.

The energy in the room was VERY high as people were bring forward their commitments for how they can move the work forward together. We just got started hearing SOME of the ways this will move forward. The full list will be available with the detailed report.

Themes from Tables Question 3(Report out):

- Taking unified voice forward to community and legislature; what we are doing for small children is responsibility and benefit to all of us
- Getting everyone in the community involved in early childhood; research project taking small community and making it the best place to raise children in Washington;
- Considering reducing silos – merge and try to cross train individuals in early brain research and collaborate across systems
- Each person could go out and talk to 10 people about key points; inform other parents of ACEs and what we know about parenting.
- Involve parenting practice skill sets (free at line in grocery store like the magazines)
- Messaging places out of comfort zone- such as right wing radio, etc... Talking to the national night out people and get the messages there, etc, etc.
- Developing comprehensive set of programs for foster parents– providing HomeBuilders for them; research on quality foster parent characteristics to drive recruitment program;
- Critical to promote beneficiaries of system to talk about their experience in the foster system and Involve them in development of policy
- Initially engaging those on front line in developing innovative approaches; culturally relevant programs;

Closing Inspirations:

Susan Dreyfus and Dr. Bette Hyde came forward to offer our closing inspiration and challenge. They encouraged us to continue to partner together on behalf of our kids. Spoke of the importance of this work and the essential need to work across boundaries, silos and communities. During this next year there will be significant funding cuts and we will need to work very creatively and return more to the community. We need to continue to support the work of the Family Policy council and its innovative partnership with communities and community networks to reduce ACE's.

Thank you for all your dedication, your inspiration and your exceptional leadership. It's making a difference.

No more still face

Chris Corrigan

a poetic harvest of the conference on science and early learning

Face it – relationships
language and emotion
700 synapses
babies are an ocean of potential for growth.
Reach out -
read and react
serve and return
the simplest skills for any parent to learn
ACEs are wild
don't poker face that child
ACEs are wild
don't poker face that child.

We need traction for action
no more funding nfor reactions
but positive interventions
systemic reinvention
health promotion and prevention
well placed intention.

Founders and nfunders
get this under your skin
When society is the still face
we create the ACE
When society is the still face
we create the ACE

So what do we do?

We partner early and often
And surely that softens
the hard blows of a cold world
a banner unfurled
a revolution of solutions
of iLabs and Head Start
exposure to the reading arts
bring parents together
to talkand train each other
raise kids in community
and pursue a unity of purpose
and hope and inspiration
for this nation can be
the demonstration project of population in
relation
and information dissemination.

For a world of compassion
can fashion its future
synapse by synapse
and not relapse into a state
of comatose siloitis.

Because you know what?
We are the ACE
when society is the still face
we are the ACE
when society is the still face.

So let's get on the continuum
and at a minimum
shout out for Thrive by Five
Bring partnerships to life
Reach out and read
Everywhere plant seeds
Base policy on science
increase community self-reliance
reach parents where they are
at home and in their cars
at salons in Central Park
on the streets after dark
supporting healthy choices
hearing a diversity of voices.

Bring it to schools
deposit all the tools that every family needs
common methods that lead us
to children at the centre
parents as mentors
resilience enters through doors
pried open by relationships
the community is the trajectory
the way to connectivity
cafes and conversation and new forms of
evaluation
spark the realization
that T.X.T 4 B.A.B
Educare, P3 and all the rest we see
is about relationality.

Fusion makes change
the core is rearranged
fusion makes change
the core is rearranged

So people in this State
we can no longer wait for fate to have its day
here are the ways

we get traction for action:

One science fits all

So tear down the walls
that keep parents from all
the riches that help them call
the future to their kids

open up learning, cultivate a yearning
for society's embrace

A bill of rights that rights political will
that allocates the resources to relationships

This is STILL public health – why the stealth
approach to early learning? Let's be turning
this science to common sense
and then lets invest this sense to finance a
dense campaign
to build better brains
better babies
break the chains that hold us back
keep us from conceiving
of new tender maybes...

Beacuse in every single case
There is only this to chase:

No more ACE
No more still face
No more ACE
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No more ACE
No more

still

face.